

Serial No.: 10/658,080
Attorney Docket No.: NEW10-GN005(39307)
Amendment

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (previously amended) An extendable handle, comprising:
 - a first shaft having a distal end and a proximal end;
 - a second shaft having a distal end and a proximal end and slidably disposed within the first shaft;
 - a guide block disposed on the distal end of the second shaft and having a curved surface thereon;
 - a third shaft with a distal end and a proximal end and slidably disposed within the second shaft; and
 - an advancement strip with a first end and a second end, wherein the first end of the advancement strip is connected to the distal end of the first shaft and the second end of the advancement strip is connected to the proximal end of the third shaft, and wherein the advancement strip is disposed along the curved surface of the guide block;
 - wherein the advancement strip can both pull and push the third shaft relative to the second shaft.
2. (original) The handle of claim 1, further comprising an ergonomic grip disposed on the first shaft and an ergonomic grip disposed on the second shaft.
3. (original) The handle of claim 1, wherein the handle includes means for preventing relative movement between the first shaft and the second shaft.
4. (original) The handle of claim 3, wherein the means comprise a locking pin, wherein the second shaft includes a plurality of holes, and the first shaft includes a locking hole.
5. (original) The handle of claim 4, wherein the locking pin is biased toward the second shaft by a spring.
6. (original) The handle of claim 1, wherein the advancement strip is constructed of spring steel, a push-pull chain, or plastic.

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7. (previously amended) The handle of claim 1, wherein the third shaft includes a mounting block that is slidable within the second shaft.
8. (original) The handle of claim 1, further comprising a paint roller rotatably mounted on the distal end of the third shaft.
9. (original) The handle of claim 1, further comprising a removable butt cap mounted to the proximal end of the first shaft.
10. (previously amended) A paint applicator with an extendable handle, comprising:
 an outer shaft having a distal end and a proximal end;
 an inner shaft having a distal end and a proximal end and telescopically disposed within the outer shaft;
 a guide block attached to the inner shaft and having a curved surface thereon;
 a rod with a distal end and a proximal end and telescopically disposed within the inner shaft;
 an advancement strip with a first end and a second end, wherein the first end of the advancement strip is connected to the distal end of the outer shaft and the second end of the advancement strip is connected to the proximal end of the rod, and wherein the advancement strip is disposed along the curved surface of the guide block; and
 a paint roller rotatably mounted to the distal end of the rod;
 wherein the advancement strip can both pull and push the rod relative to the inner shaft.
11. (previously amended) The paint applicator of claim 10, further comprising an ergonomic grip disposed on the outer shaft and an ergonomic grip disposed on the inner shaft.

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12. (previously amended) The paint applicator of claim 10, further comprising means for preventing relative movement between the inner shaft and the outer shaft.

13. (previously amended) The paint applicator of claim 12, wherein the means comprise a locking pin, wherein the inner shaft includes a plurality of holes, and the outer shaft includes a locking hole.

14. (previously amended) The paint applicator of claim 13, wherein the locking pin is toward the inner shaft by a spring.

15. (previously amended) The paint applicator of claim 10, wherein the advancement strip is constructed of a spring steel.

16. (previously amended) The paint applicator of claim 10, wherein the rod includes a mounting block that is slidable within the inner shaft.

17. (previously amended) The paint applicator of claim 10, further comprising a removable butt cap mounted to the proximal end of the outer shaft.

18-26. (Cancelled)